

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 495

Department of Agriculture

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	754.6	28,539	113,838	142,377
Total Maintenance Level	762.6	33,309	119,591	152,900
Difference	8.0	4,770	5,753	10,523
Percent Change from Current Biennium	1.1%	16.7%	5.1%	7.4%
Performance Changes				
Reduce Fair Funding			(3,000)	(3,000)
Reduce Administrative Costs	(1.0)	(112)		(112)
Increase Funding to Food Banks		15,000		15,000
Natural Resources Consolidation #	8.5	7,095	589	7,684
Savings from Natural Resource Consolidation	(1.0)	(200)		(200)
Reduce Knotweed Grants		(216)		(216)
Reduce Biofuel Quality Testing			(103)	(103)
Reduce Weed Board Support		(170)		(170)
Eliminate Weights and Measures General Fund	(2.0)	(267)		(267)
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(249)	(1,010)	(1,259)
State Data Center Rate Increase		50	75	125
Subtotal	4.5	20,931	(3,449)	17,482
Total Proposed Budget	767.1	54,240	116,142	170,382
Difference	12.5	25,701	2,304	28,005
Percent Change from Current Biennium	1.7%	90.1%	2.0%	19.7%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Agency Administration	63.5	9,683	10,992	20,675
Agricultural Fairs	2.0		1,258	1,258
Agricultural Promotion and Protection	1.5	314	4,572	4,886
Animal Health	21.1	3,557	1,362	4,919
Chemistry Laboratory	14.6	371	3,340	3,711
Commission Merchants	3.2		626	626
Commodity Commissions				
Feed Regulation	6.7		1,823	1,823
Fertilizer Regulation	5.3		938	938
Food Safety	50.4	4,437	3,935	8,372
Fruit and Vegetable Inspection	215.4		26,535	26,535
Grain Inspection	111.1		15,318	15,318
Grain Warehouse Audit	3.0		465	465
Hop Inspection	7.9		1,004	1,004
International Marketing	5.9	1,999	96	2,095
Livestock Brand Inspection	20.3		2,458	2,458
Dairy Nutrient Management Program	6.6	1,161	114	1,275

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Microbiology Laboratory	9.5	1,600	1,783	3,383
Nursery Inspection	17.1		2,902	2,902
Organic Food Certification	26.6		5,856	5,856
Pesticide Regulation	54.9	222	11,818	12,040
Plant Protection	61.9	4,365	6,673	11,038
Planting Stock Certification	4.1		999	999
Seed Inspection/Certification	27.7		4,016	4,016
Domestic Marketing and Economic Development	4.6	920	124	1,044
Weights and Measures Inspection	15.8		3,651	3,651
Food Assistance and Distribution	6.7	25,611	3,484	29,095
Total Proposed Budget	767.1	54,240	116,142	170,382

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Reduce Fair Funding

The Fair Account receives a \$4 million transfer each biennium from the General Fund. Three quarters of this transfer is suspended for the 2011-13 biennium, thereby reducing appropriations from the Fair Account. This one-time reduction will result in smaller and fewer county fairs statewide while preserving community and youth fairs. (Fair Account-Nonappropriated)

Reduce Administrative Costs

The Department will use several different strategies to achieve one-time administrative savings, including vacancy management and the use of savings in other fund sources to support core agency programs. Savings strategies may vary depending on changing circumstances throughout the biennium.

Increase Funding to Food Banks

Funding was eliminated for the State Food Assistance Program in the Department of Social and Health Services. To continue providing vital food services to citizens, ongoing funding is provided to the Department of Agriculture's Food Assistance Program to increase funding to food banks across the state.

Natural Resources Consolidation

Pursuant to executive request legislation consolidating natural resource agencies, funding and FTE staff are increased to reflect the transfer of the State Conservation Commission to the Department of Agriculture, effective July 1, 2012. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal)

Savings from Natural Resource Consolidation

Consolidation of the State Conservation Commission into the Department of Agriculture will result in the reduction of one human resources director and one legislative liaison.

Reduce Knotweed Grants

Knotweed is an invasive weed that alters stream and river ecosystems and limits salmon recovery by displacing native vegetation lining streams and rivers. Funding is eliminated on a one-time basis for six knotweed projects, resulting in a negative effect on six different river and stream systems. Approximately 380 fewer acres of invasive knotweed will be controlled, representing about 40 percent of the current statewide workload.

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Reduce Biofuel Quality Testing

Funding is reduced on an ongoing basis for biofuel quality testing within the Weights and Measures Program. (Motor Vehicle Account-State)

Reduce Weed Board Support

One of the State Weed Board's primary duties is to serve as a central hub of information, education, and outreach about non-native, invasive plants for county and district weed boards and the general public. The Board also provides a limited amount of pass-through funding to local government agencies to support on-the-ground projects to eradicate the state's most harmful noxious weeds. The amount of pass-through funding to counties is reduced by 50 percent, and board travel costs are eliminated on an ongoing basis.

Eliminate Weights and Measures General Fund

This ongoing reduction eliminates two full-time inspector positions and suspends inspections related to price verification, including all retail scanner verification, packaging net contents, and accuracy of labeling for products sold to consumers. The Department will suspend efforts to respond to consumer complaints related to sales of firewood and mislabeling of packaged goods. Additionally, enforcement related to antifreeze requirements is eliminated.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Agency Administration

This activity provides executive leadership, policy development and review, financial services, computer and information technology services, human resources services, communications, administrative procedures guidance, legal services, employee safety, and risk management programs for the department's 27 programs. The budget amounts for this activity are the overhead component of agency administrative costs.

Agricultural Fairs

The Fairs program provides about \$2 million in financial assistance to agricultural fairs and youth shows each year. The director of the Department of Agriculture appoints a seven-member Fairs Commission to recommend fund allocations to participating fairs. This program coordinates the activities of the commission, audits all required reports and information from participating fairs, and verifies that fairs operate in compliance with state law. Currently, 68 fairs participate in the Fairs program. (Fair Account-Nonappropriated,)

Agricultural Promotion and Protection

This activity provides funding for bioenergy coordination and activities that promote, support, or protect the state's agricultural industry. It also includes variable federal funding for specific projects, including specialty crop block grant projects that enhance the competitiveness of Washington state grown fruits, vegetables, and horticulture and nursery crops in domestic or foreign markets. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, General Fund-Private/Local)

Animal Health

The Animal Health program protects animals and the public from communicable animal diseases, such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, rabies, avian influenza, and others. The program monitors the health of animals entering the state, requires reporting and controlling of certain diseases, conducts tests and inspections to detect selected diseases, and prepares for and responds to animal health emergencies. It cooperates with universities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other agencies. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal)

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Chemistry Laboratory

The Chemistry Laboratory in Yakima supports department programs by analyzing samples taken in investigations of alleged pesticide misuse, monitoring for pesticide residues in foods, and determining if commercial feed and fertilizer samples meet label guarantees. These activities are funded by a mix of state, federal, and local funds. The laboratory also participates in a federally-funded program for monitoring pesticide residue levels in fruits, vegetables, and other commodities, and performs fee-for-service chemical analysis for the hop industry. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Commission Merchants

The Commission Merchants program protects agricultural producers against theft, fraud, and unfair business practices by licensing persons and businesses involved in buying and selling agricultural products. Licensees who purchase or handle agricultural products on consignment must be bonded. Funded by license fees, the program investigates producer complaints against commission merchants and cooperates with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Commodity Commissions

This program administers agency responsibilities related to the state's 25 agricultural commodity commissions. Each commission is funded by producers and engages primarily in marketing and/or research related to its specific commodity. The Director of Agriculture is a board member of each commission. The program reviews and approves commission programs and budgets; supervises or coordinates the nomination, election, or appointment of commission members; and oversees the issuance, amendment, or termination of commission marketing orders.

Feed Regulation

The Commercial Feed program regulates the distribution of animal feeds to ensure product identity, quality, and proper labeling. It registers and reviews labels of more than 7,000 pet food products, and licenses about 550 manufacturers and initial distributors of other animal feed products. It inspects feed mills for compliance with good manufacturing practices, and also analyzes feed samples to determine accuracy of label guarantees. The program is funded primarily by fees paid by the feed industry. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Fertilizer Regulation

The Commercial Fertilizer program licenses about 300 bulk fertilizer facilities, registers more than 5,000 fertilizer products for distribution in the state, and analyzes fertilizer samples to verify label guarantees for plant nutrients and to ensure that heavy metal content does not exceed state standards. It inspects fertilizer manufacturing, distribution, and storage facilities for compliance with requirements and inspects irrigation systems used for fertigation to ensure required safeguards are in place to prevent ground water and surface water contamination. The program is funded entirely by fees paid by the fertilizer industry. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Food Safety

The Food Safety program protects the public from injury and illness caused by food products that are contaminated, adulterated, or otherwise unfit for consumption. This is accomplished through surveillance, regulation, and inspection of the dairy, egg, and food processing and food storage industries. Inspectors examine facilities for such things as product adulteration, cleanliness, proper handling and storage, and sanitary preparation techniques. The program investigates consumer complaints and responds as needed to food-related emergencies. It is funded by the state General Fund, federal funds, and fees paid by food processors, food storage warehouses, milk processors, and the egg industry.

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Fruit and Vegetable Inspection

The Fruit and Vegetable Inspection program provides inspection services to the fresh produce and processing industry to ensure orderly marketing of fruits and vegetables. Commodities are inspected for quality, size, labeling, condition, and contract specifications, and may be certified as free from disease and insects as required by domestic and international markets. These services are provided through district offices in Yakima and Wenatchee and eight field offices throughout the state. This is a self-supporting, fee-for-service program. (Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Account-Nonappropriated)

Grain Inspection

The Grain Inspection program provides inspection and analytical and weighing services to ensure orderly commerce for grain, dry peas, dry beans, lentils, rapeseed, and similar commodities sold in or from Washington. These services are offered at the ports of Seattle, Tacoma, Kalama, and Vancouver and at offices in Spokane, Colfax, and Pasco, with a quality assurance laboratory in Olympia. The program is funded by fees and, as required by federal law, provides service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, upon request. (Grain Inspection Revolving Account-Nonappropriated)

Grain Warehouse Audit

The Grain Warehouse Audit program protects grain producers from undue losses by licensing and bonding grain storage warehouses and grain dealers. The program audits each licensee to assure producers and depositors that licensees are meeting storage requirements and other contractual obligations. The program is funded by license fees. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Hop Inspection

The Hop Inspection program performs physical grading and chemical analysis of the Washington hop crop (75 percent of the nation's supply) to ensure orderly international and domestic marketing. This is a self-supporting program that is funded by fees paid by hop producers and dealers for requested services. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

International Marketing

The International Marketing program assists food and agricultural companies in selling their products internationally. It contracts with trade representatives in the major markets of Japan, Taiwan, and China to assist Washington businesses with export transactions and market development. It offers one-on-one assistance to export-ready businesses; organizes and leads companies on trade missions and to major trade shows; and develops and distributes information to buyers on the state's agricultural suppliers. The program works closely with commodity commissions and the Governor's Office to fight trade barriers that prevent or limit overseas market access for Washington's agricultural and food products. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Livestock Brand Inspection

The Livestock Brand Inspection program maintains the official recordings of about 6,000 livestock brands. As a theft prevention measure, cattle and horses are inspected for brands or other proof of ownership at public livestock markets, slaughter plants, and prior to moving out of state. Cattle are also inspected at certified feed lots and at any change of ownership. Approximately 550,000 cattle and 10,000 horses are inspected annually. The program licenses and bonds public livestock markets to ensure proper payment for cattle, and also licenses and audits certified feed lots to verify inspection certificates for slaughtered cattle. This program is funded through fees paid by the livestock industry. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

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Dairy Nutrient Management Program

The Dairy Nutrient Management program inspects the state's dairy farms, provides technical assistance, and takes action to ensure the dairies comply with state and federal water quality laws. It coordinates with the Department of Ecology on the regulation of those dairies and other concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that hold a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. (General Fund-State, Water Quality Permit Account-State, Livestock Nutrient Management Account-State)

Microbiology Laboratory

The Microbiology Laboratory, located in Olympia, supports the department's Food Safety program by testing food and dairy products for food poisoning organisms and by examining food products for contamination by insects, rodents, or filth. The laboratory also tests dairy products for quality and to meet requirements for the interstate shipment of milk. Staff inspect and certify private laboratories performing officially sanctioned dairy microbiology. The laboratory participates in a federally funded program to monitor for pathogenic organisms in the nation's food supply and other cooperative efforts. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Nursery Inspection

The Nursery Inspection program inspects nurseries to ensure that consumers and the nursery industry are provided healthy, pest-free, and disease-free plant materials. The program licenses nursery dealers and Christmas tree growers, enforces agricultural quarantines to prevent pest introduction and, on request, provides inspection services to certify that Washington nursery stock and plant materials are free from disease and insects, as required by domestic and international markets. The program is funded by license fees paid by nursery dealers and Christmas tree growers and fees paid for requested inspections. (General Fund-Federal, Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Organic Food Certification

The Organic Food program protects consumers and supports the organic food industry by ensuring that all food products making organic claims meet standards for organic production and labeling. It inspects, certifies, and provides technical assistance to more than 1,200 organic producers, processors, and handlers. It evaluates and registers fertilizers and pest control materials that can be used in organic food production. The program is funded by fees paid by the organic industry. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Pesticide Regulation

The Pesticide Program regulates the sale and use of pesticides in Washington. It investigates complaints of pesticide misuse, conducts field inspections of pesticide manufacturers and applicators, and provides technical assistance to pesticide users. It reviews and registers more than 11,000 pesticide products for use in the state. It licenses and administers a continuing education program for more than 22,000 pesticide applicators, dealers and consultants, and structural pest inspectors, and oversees a program to train Spanish-speaking farm workers in the safe and legal use of pesticides. It administers the waste pesticide program which disposes of prohibited or unusable pesticides from farms. It also protects resources such as ground water from pesticide or fertilizer contamination and conducts selected surface water monitoring as part of a program to evaluate and mitigate the impact of pesticides on threatened or endangered species. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated, State Toxics Control Account-State)

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Plant Protection

The Plant Protection program protects the state's resources by preventing the establishment of high-risk insects, plant diseases, weeds, and other pests. Staff conduct surveys and inspections, disseminate information and research, enforce agricultural quarantines, provide laboratory diagnostic services, and carry out projects to eradicate pests. The program coordinates statewide efforts to eradicate spartina, and to control invasive knotweeds and other selected weeds. It works with the State Noxious Weed Control Board and local weed boards and districts. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Planting Stock Certification

The Planting Stock Certification program provides testing and inspection services to ensure disease-free planting stock for various agricultural industries. Voluntary certification programs are currently provided for fruit trees and related ornamentals, seed potatoes, hops, grapes, mint, garlic, and strawberries. This is a self-supporting, fee-for-service program. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Seed Inspection/Certification

The Seed Inspection program conducts pre-harvest field inspections and laboratory testing of agricultural, vegetable, and flower seeds grown under the seed certification program. It tests seed samples submitted by seed growers and companies to determine compliance with purity and germination standards and to certify seed for domestic and international marketing. It operates the only official seed testing laboratory in the state. This is a self-supporting, fee-for-service program. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Domestic Marketing and Economic Development

The program coordinates the department's economic development and domestic marketing efforts to improve the viability of the state's food and agriculture industry. Staff members assist farmers and other agriculture businesses to find markets and see their products, to reduce regulatory and market barriers, and to encourage and support needed infrastructure including food processing, transportation, etc. The program includes the Small Farm Direct Marketing program and the Farm-To-School program and helps schools and institutions to purchase Washington grown foods and farmers to sell to schools. In addition, the program works to recruit and retain food processors and to encourage the infrastructure necessary to support the agriculture industry and community. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal)

Weights and Measures Inspection

The Weights and Measures program regulates the use and accuracy of all commercial weighing, measuring, and counting devices, including gas pumps, grocery store scale systems, price scanners, vehicle-tank meters, and liquid petroleum gas measuring devices. Staff inspect and test devices for accuracy and suitability for service and inspect packaged commodities for correct content (net weight, volume or count), labeling, and pricing. The program monitors motor fuel quality, including biofuels quality, by analyzing fuel samples for octane, oxygenate, and other product quality factors. The program also operates the state metrology laboratory and provides calibration services to businesses, laboratories, and government entities. (General Fund-State, Motor Vehicle Account-State, Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

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Food Assistance and Distribution

WSDA Food Assistance and Distribution consists of two components: Emergency Food Assistance (EFAP) which is authorized by RCW 43.330.130 and Distribution of Surplus Food (TEFAP/CSFP). Emergency Food Assistance combats hunger and improves health among low-income individuals and families by supporting nutritious food distribution, food banks, and tribal food voucher programs. This improves school performance and reduces illness, which results in fewer days missed at work or school and fewer visits to the doctor. WSDA contracts with 32 tribes and 28 local community agencies, which subcontract with 325 nonprofit food bank organizations statewide. EFAP funds may be used to purchase and distribute food, to cover the cost of food vouchers which clients take to local grocery stores and also for administrative and operating expenses. WSDA staff develop and issue EFAP contracts, provide oversight of contracts and two advisory committees, offer technical assistance and training to meet requirements and improve performance, reimburse monthly expenditure vouchers, and monitor program compliance. In addition WSDA receives and distributes surplus federal food and operational funds to the statewide food bank network in order to support local organizations that supply food to those in need. There is a required state funding match for federal administrative dollars, as well as pass through dollars.